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URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ABBREVIATED ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for 1943.

R.T.E. NAISMITH, M.B., B.S.



COLNE VALLEY  
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Health Department,  
Town Hall,  
Linthwaite.

Gentlemen,

It is again my duty to report on the work of this Department, the activities of which are still largely governed by the exigencies of another year of war. Details are reduced to the barest necessity, but records and files are maintained for any future reference.

There has been no outstanding incidence of disease to which I need draw your attention.


The care of evacuees and maintenance of staff and equipment for the reception of further quotas has remained an obligation throughout the year. The staff are still engaged on many wartime duties additional to public health work, and for their co-operation I am much obliged.

To the members of the Health Committee I tender thanks for unfailing support received.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

R.T.E. Naismith.



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# GENERAL PROVISION FOR HEALTH SERVICES.

As in previous years.

## STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Area (in acres) .. .. .	16,052
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population mid 1943 .. .. .	20,510
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1943) according to the Rate Books .. .. .	7,592
Rateable value and the sum represented by a penny rate .. .. .	£118,127 - £444

## LIVE BIRTHS.

	<u>Total</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>
Legitimate .. .. .	299	149	150
Illegitimate .. .. .	12	7	5
Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population .. .. .			15.16

## STILL BIRTHS.

	<u>Total</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>
Legitimate .. .. .	14	9	5
Illegitimate .. .. .	1	1	-
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births .. .. .			43.00

## DEATHS.

	<u>Total</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>
	273	127	146
Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population .. .. .			13.31

## DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES.

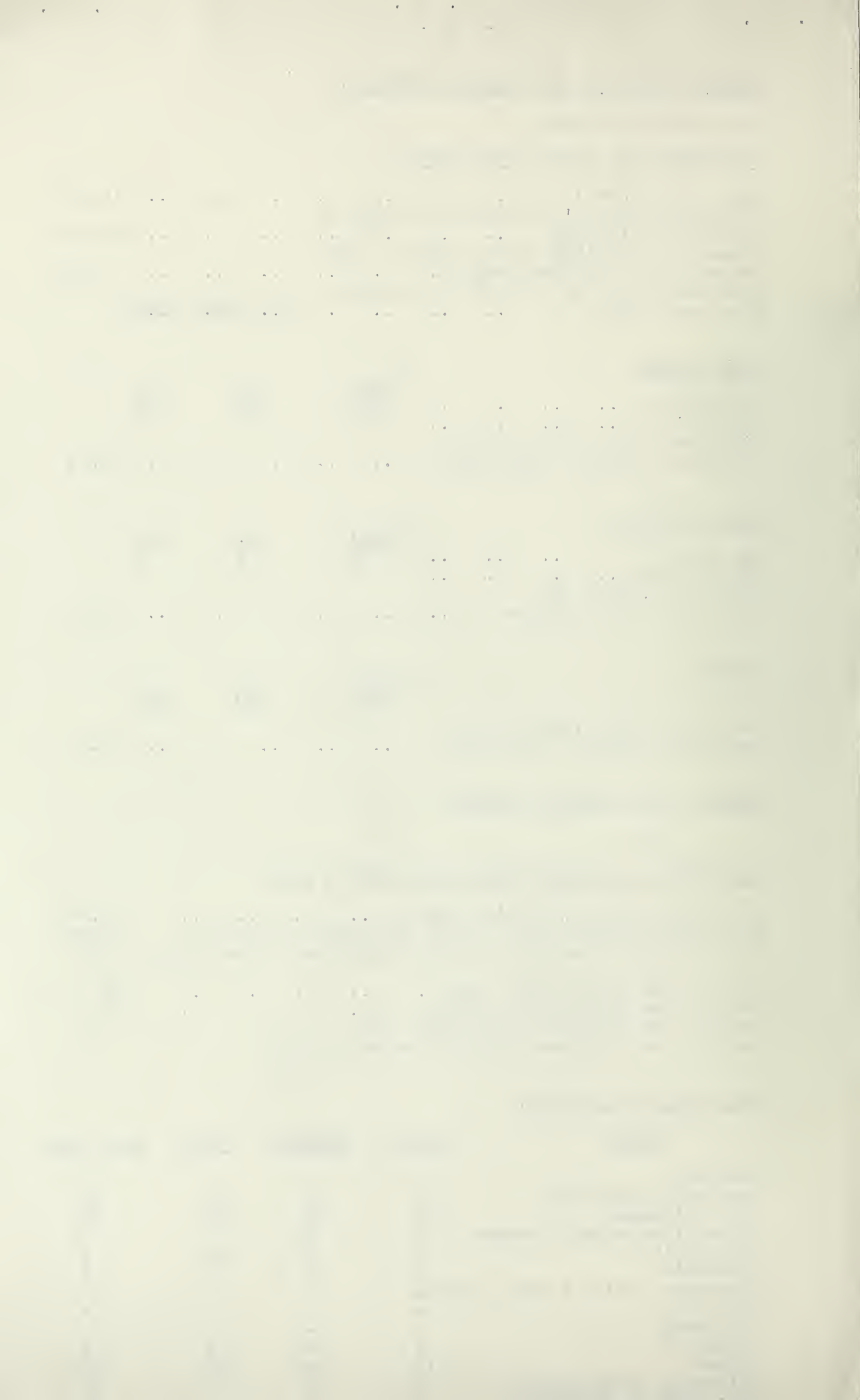
Nil.

## DEATH RATE IN INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE.

All infants per 1,000 live births .. .. .	35.36
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births .. .. .	36.78
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births .. .. .	NIL
Deaths from Cancer (all ages) .. .. .	33
Deaths from Measles (all ages) .. .. .	NIL
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) .. .. .	1
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) .. .. .	1

## MAIN GROUPS OF DEATHS.

<u>Cause</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Last year</u>
Diabetes	1	-	1	2
Cerebral Haemorrhage	16	22	38	32
Heart Diseases	37	43	80	71
Other Circulatory Diseases	4	3	7	5
Bronchitis	5	5	10	9
Pneumonia	3	2	5	8
Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	1	-	1	-
Measles	-	-	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-
Influenza	2	3	5	-
Cancer	19	14	33	32
Pulmonary tuberculosis	2	1	3	11
Non-pulmonary tuberculosis	2	2	4	2





PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

<u>Disease</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Under School</u>	<u>School age</u>	<u>Over School</u>
Scarlet Fever	50	61	111	24	65	22
Diphtheria	1	1	2	-	2	-
Measles	68	72	140	77	61	2
Whooping Cough	86	68	154	88	64	2
Dysentery	1	3	4			
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	3	3			
Pneumonia	19	19	38			
Erysipelas	4	2	6			
Tuberculosis:						
Pulmonary	7	2	9			
Non-pulmonary	6	7	13			

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Scarlet fever with 111 cases showed a 50% increase on the previous year, and whilst pretty evenly distributed throughout the year was mainly concentrated in the North-East and South-East Wards which together totalled 79 cases. No death occurred. The measles attack which commenced during the previous year faded out at the end of the first quarter this year. Whooping Cough was fairly prevalent but was clearing up towards the year end. Pneumonia doubled the previous years total. With only 2 cases of diphtheria the position in regard to this disease could be considered satisfactory.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER SUPPLY.

The 12 houses remaining on the condemned Hey Knowle supply at the end of 1942 have been connected up to the Huddersfield Corporations supply. The Council have terminated the Agreement with the owner of the Hey Knowle supply. A shortage of pressure in the Corporation's supply to the Church Lane area of Linthwaite has been remedied.

A complaint of pollution of the supply to Spring Hall Cottages, Marsden was taken up and one chemical and five bacteriological tests made. All proved satisfactory. An unsatisfactory supply to 5 houses near Linthwaite Hall has been remedied by connecting up to the Huddersfield Corporation's supply.

The Haughs Green and Slades Road supply at Golcar again gave trouble, the service main being corroded and silted up. The service was restored at the Council's expense. The question of this liability will be considered in the coming year. The percentages of supply at the end of the year were as follows:- Huddersfield Corporation 57.30, Earl Dartmouth 11.85, Private supplies 15.33, giving a total of 84.48 per cent of houses with a laid on supply. The balance representing 15.52 of the houses have to carry in water from nearby wells and springs.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

No extension was carried out during the year.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

Nothing to report.





### CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

Tables showing the Ward position are again omitted, but, as previously during the war period, they have been prepared and filed. Nine privies and 10 tub closets have been replaced by waterclosets, and 1 additional watercloset has been provided for old property. No new houses have been built. The Councils subsidy of £5 for each W.C. provided in lieu of a privy or tub closet has been paid in 17 instances during the year. War time restrictions on materials and labour hamper progress in conversions.

The numbers of the various types of conveniences serving the district at the end of the year were as follows:- Privies 1051, Tub Closets 479, Waterclosets 4824, Waste waterclosets 71.

### PUBLIC CLEANSING.

The shortage of staff in this department owing to war conditions has caused difficulties in carrying out this work but with strict supervision and various re-arrangements these difficulties have been partially overcome and very few complaints have been received.

### SALVAGE.

Special vehicles and staff are employed for this work. Salvage and Book drives were carried out during the year to try and increase the collection of raw materials required for war purposes.

### SANITARY INSPECTIONS OF THE AREA.

### NUISANCES.

The number of nuisances in hand at the end of 1942 was 34, and these with 70 new nuisances reported gave a total of 104 for abatement. Of this number 65 were abated, leaving 39 to carry forward unabated.

The majority of the nuisances carried forward are relatively not dangerous to health but which require material and labour for abatement which will not be available until after the war. Six of the arrears were cleared off during the year, which included the provision of the Huddersfield Corporation's supply to 12 houses and the emptying of one house the subject of a demolition order.

Of the nuisances dealt with 35 related to defective drainage, 25 from defective sanitary conveniences, 2 keeping animals so as to be a nuisance, 2 premises infested with vermin, 1 premises in such a state, and 5 unwholesome water supply.

All the outstanding Statutory Notices were complied with, and during the year 16 new ones were issued of which 8 were complied with and 8 remain in hand. Informal notices numbered 32 of which 30 were complied with.

### FACTORIES AND BAKEHOUSES.

Several changes have taken place in the register during the year, mainly owing to war conditions and the summary at the end of the year shows 155 "Power" factories and 51 "Non Power" factories. These figures include 14 "Power" bakehouses and 6 "Non Power" bakehouses. The various trades carried on in the factories have all been working at top pressure on war production and have been well conducted, and conditions are generally satisfactory. Bakehouses are also kept well within the requirements of the law in regard to cleanliness of premises and utensils.



### SMOKE ABATEMENT.

The situation in regard to this branch of public health administration is still governed by war conditions. Factories and dyeworks are pressed for output and furnace coal is of such poor quality that the standard of smoke emission required by the Byelaw is still unobtainable. The Council are members of the West Riding Regional Smoke Abatement Committee.

### OFFENSIVE TRADES.

Two businesses are registered under this heading, one soap boiling in connection with a wool scouring business, and one gut scraping. Both are carried on in a satisfactory manner.

### INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

#### DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.

There are 88 registered cowkeepers, and 128 cowsheds in the district. The average number of cows kept is 850. Two new licences have been granted for the production of Accredited Milk, the total now being 13. The cleanliness of the cows and cowsheds is good. Only minor alterations and repairs can be carried out to cowsheds during the war, but the general structural conditions are good.

#### SLAUGHTERHOUSE AND MEAT SUPPLY.

The Public Abattoir is used chiefly for the distribution of meat supplies to the Colne Valley butchers, but the occasional slaughtering of pigs for private use, under certificate of the local Food Office, is carried out.

### HOUSING.

During the year 50 inspections have been made under the Housing Act, 1936, and repairs carried out to 23 houses, leaving 27 houses needing attention. 18 houses left over from 1942 have been repaired. The Council issued Demolition Orders respecting 2 houses, and under Section 12 respecting 5 houses. No new houses have been erected during the year.





